

MISSISSIPPI WIRELESS COMMUNICATION COMMISSION

December 1, 2005 Meeting Minutes

Place: MDOT 1st floor Auditorium

Meeting was called to order at 1:50 pm by Vice Chairman Chris Epps.

Commission Members Present:

MDOC	Chris Epps
Department of ITS	David Litchliter
Mississippi DPS	George Phillips
Mississippi Highway Patrol	Marvin Curtis
Mississippi Homeland Security	Ed Worthington
Mississippi DOT	Willie Huff
MDEQ	Clovis Reed
SafeCity Initiative	Mark McCreery
MS Association of Police Chiefs	Tommy Moffett
MS Association of Fire Chiefs	Tom Lariviere
MS National Guard	Lee Smithson
MS Municipal League	Nick Wilson (for Gene McGee)
MS Supervisors Association	Joel Yelverton
MS Department of Public Health	Brian Amy

Advisory Members Present:

Representative Tyrone Ellis	Senator Jack Gordon
Representative Clayton Smith	Senator Robert G. Huggins
	Senator Tommy Robertson

Vice Chairman Chris Epps called the meeting to order at 1:50 pm. He welcomed everyone and requested that all attendees sign the attendance sheet. He explained that Chairman George Phillips would be late.

Clovis Reed made a motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting. Tom Lariviere seconded the motion, and it passed with none opposed.

Joel Yelverton reported for the Wireless Commission Rules Committee. Requests for approval had been received from Lowndes County and Jackson County. Mr. Yelverton explained that Ed Worthington was handling the Lowndes County request. Mr. Worthington stated that Lowndes County had been working on upgrading their current 911 dispatch system for the past year because the current system will no longer be supported. The committee suggested that the Commission approve the request as submitted by Mr. Worthington. Joel Yelverton made a motion to approve the request, and Tom Lariviere seconded the motion. The motion passed with none opposed.

Mr. Yelverton explained that the Jackson County request included repairing system damage done by Katrina, as well as, an expansion of the current system. The system repairs would be

paid by FEMA and insurance. Mr. Yelverton stated that the committee suggested approving the part of the request that would allow the system to be brought back to pre-Katrina condition. The committee discussed the advantage of waiting on the RFP before approving the expansion part of the request from Jackson County. Mr. Yelverton explained that the committee would look at the expansion part of the request again in three months to see what progress has been made on the RFP. Mr. Yelverton also explained that the action of the committee would likely be appealed to the full Commission.

Senator Jack Gordon initiated a discussion about leaving out part of Jackson County's request. Representative Tyrone Ellis asked Mr. Yelverton to review the cost of the request. Mr. Yelverton responded that the cost would be \$1.3 million to expand coverage to the Hurley area. Representative Ellis asked how much the insurance company and FEMA would be paying. Mr. Worthington explained that the expansion of the system would not be covered by insurance or FEMA. He also explained that purchase and lease of tower sites made up the majority of the expense for the expansion, and the Commission might be able to save Jackson County some money with a State system. Representative Ellis expressed concern that he did not want to turn down money from FEMA. Mr. Yelverton explained that the committee agreed that the restoration part of the request should be granted. Representative Ellis asked who would pay for the expansion of the system. Mr. Yelverton answered that Jackson County 911 funds would be used. Representative Ellis inquired as to whether or not the system that Jackson County will be compatible with what the State is trying to accomplish. Mr. Yelverton responded that the committee does not know the answer to that yet, which is why the committee suggested that the request be tabled for three months.

The Commission's intent is to avoid or reduce unnecessary spending until a statewide direction is determined. Members of the Advisory Committee and the Commission discussed the Jackson County request for approval of system expansion.

Vice Chairman Epps referenced paragraph three of Mr. Yelverton's handout, which was a letter from Jackson County. He stated that he does not think that the State will have a system in place in time to help Jackson County with the problem of expansion. He requested that the Commission allow the county to expand the three sites mentioned in paragraph three.

Tommy Moffett made a motion to approve the request submitted by the committee and to include the expansion into the Northeast corner of the County. Tom Lariviere seconded the motion. A representative from Jackson County Emergency Communications addressed the Commission. There was a discussion about the source of funds for the system expansion. The motion passed with Clovis Reed and David Litchliter opposed.

Mr. Yelverton reported on the progress of the interim purchasing guidelines. He explained that changes had been made to reflect comments from Commission members. He passed out a handout with the changes highlighted in yellow and asked for a motion to adopt the guidelines. Vice Chairman Epps asked attorney David Scott to review the guidelines before hearing a motion. The guidelines were reviewed by Mr. Scott. David Litchliter made a motion to accept the guidelines with the correction. Ed Worthington seconded the motion, and it passed with none opposed.

Vice Chairman Epps reported for the RFP Development Committee. Issues related to the RFP are being reviewed. Vice Chairman Epps explained that the details of the RFP need to be further developed and verified to ensure consistency with the Commission's vision. He stated that the committee members agree that the coastal counties are the most likely place for a

disaster and that addressing the needs for an interoperable voice communications is the highest priority. There was also discussion that voice and data communications should be on separate infrastructures. Vice Chairman Epps stated that Ed Worthington and Joel Yelverton visited the coast to find out the needs of the coastal counties. The RFP committee met on the 28th of November and will meet again the morning of December 2nd.

Representative Tyrone Ellis asked how close the committee is to developing an RFP. Vice Chairman Epps responded that in his opinion the committee's task is about twenty-five percent completed. Chairman Phillips explained that the RFP committee has been formed for one month and has had two meetings. Representative Ellis stated that the Advisory members would like to meet with the Chairman, Vice Chairman, and the committee chairmen. Chairman Phillips responded that he would be delighted to have a meeting with the Advisory members.

Chairman Phillips stated that at the next meeting he will announce a time limit for speaking to the Commission.

Clovis Reed reported for the Cellular Committee. He stated that the committee met on November 21st. He thanked ITS and David Litchliter for helping the committee. He stated that the committee has developed a list of services to include in the RFP. The committee expects to have a draft of the RFP developed by January.

Ed Worthington reported for the Integrating Needs Committee. He passed out a handout outlining meetings with representatives of the coastal counties. Mr. Worthington discussed the meetings with the coastal counties. Representative Clayton Smith questioned why Harrison County's system survived Katrina, but Hancock County's system did not. Mr. Worthington explained that location and water caused the destruction in Hancock County.

The Commission recessed at 3:05 pm until 3:10 pm.

Chairman Phillips called the meeting back to order at 3:10 pm and introduced Dan Lynn, from the Department of Public Safety, to review the Open Meetings Act. Mr. Lynn explained the requirements of the Act as they relate to the Commission. He reminded the members that minutes should be kept for commission meetings and committee meetings.

Under old business, Joel Yelverton introduced discussion about Buford Goff and Associates and asked Willie Huff to speak to the Commission about the consulting group. Mr. Huff explained that the consulting group assisted in the drafting of the RFP. MDOT contracted with the consultants with the help of ITS. Public Safety Planning paid the consultants.

The next meeting will be January 5, 2006, at 1:30pm.

Chairman Phillips asked the committee chairs to do two things: 1) Advise the Commission Chairman, Vice Chairman Epps, and David Litchliter of their committees' meeting times, and 2) Provide a status summary of their committee to him forty-eight hours prior to the Thursday Commission meetings.

Meeting adjourned at 3:34 pm.